

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
11/02/08 – 11/15/08**

DISTRICT 1

CO Grant Emery responded to the complaint of an injured owl. CO Emery was able to locate the bird and transport it for rehabilitation.

COs Marv Gerlach and PCO Mark DePew reported receiving a complaint of an illegal deer taken in Menominee County. They were able to locate and interview the subject in question which led to two more illegal deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman reported that the 36 year old non-resident he cited for purchasing several senior resident deer licenses made his appearance in court. The subject paid \$318 restitution in addition to court costs and fines.

CO Grant Emery walked in to check an archery hunter on November 11th and found a non-resident sitting in a tree stand with a scoped 30-30 rifle. The subject stated he was coyote hunting with a corn pile 30 yards away and a doe scent bottle 70 yards in a different direction. CO Emery advised the subject that he did not possess the required predator hunting equipment, he was not wearing hunter orange, and he was in possession of a rifle afield during the five day period proceeding the firearm deer season. CO Emery also advised the subject that Wisconsin residents are not allowed to predator hunt in Michigan. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Aho attempted to stop a truck that was operating in a closed area. The driver ignored CO Aho's hand signal and proceeded to keep driving. CO Aho caught up to the vehicle and located two loaded uncased firearms along with open intoxicants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Painter worked with Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division personnel from Crystal Falls in locating illegal blinds left out on state land.

CO Jason Wicklund and Sgt. Marc Pomroy found a fresh blood trail with boot tracks following the trail from a blind. After following the tracks for nearly an hour, the COs found an untagged seven point and a tired and lost hunter. A check of the hunter revealed he had failed to purchase his deer license.

DISTRICT 2

CO Reid Roeske contacted a subject on an ORV heading back out to his hunting location. During the brief contact, CO Roeske observed blood on the subject's hands. When asked to see his license, the subject produced both combination license tags. After a short discussion, the subject confessed to taking a deer in the morning and not

tagging it. They both returned to the subject's camp and a ticket was issued for failure to tag the deer.

CO Gerald Thayer issued a ticket to a trapper for failing to check a restraining trap for five days while it held a coyote. The complainant assisted by providing food to the animal while it was held and the coyote was released in good shape.

On opening day of the firearm deer season, CO Gerald Thayer worked an illegal ORV trail that originated on private land but then ran more than a mile on state land. One ticket was issued along with several warnings. The subjects were upset because they thought they were doing the state a favor by cutting enough trees to keep a 30 year old skidder trail open (for themselves).

CO Kyle Publiski was assisted by local deputies on an illegal deer case. The subject was apprehended with the deer on the back of his ORV. He killed it with a firearm during the archery season. Condemnation proceedings are pending.

CO Kyle Publiski observed a duck hunter on an inland lake harassing ducks. The subject was also in possession of a loaded firearm while underway and had an expired vessel registration. Enforcement action taken.

CO Kellie Nightlinger took enforcement action on a hunter who did not have a deer license, was not wearing hunter orange, had cut tree boughs without a permit, and was sitting in an illegal blind that was at the end of a illegal ORV trail.

COs Mike Hammill and Derek Miller took enforcement action on a hunter who was sitting in his vehicle with a loaded rifle, a loaded pistol, drinking beer, and smoking marijuana. He also had a suspended driver's license and a warrant for his arrest.

Sgt. Dave Rantanen, while patrolling Luce County, came upon a youth carrying a loaded rifle. He had just left his blind and was going to look for his father about 500 yards away. Sgt. Rantanen asked the boy how old he was, the boy stated he was 12 and showed Sgt. Rantanen his safety certificate that indicated he had just turned 10 years old. Sgt. Rantanen contacted the father about a half mile away who stated his sons were 12 years old. The second son was in a blind about 500 yards away along an illegal ORV trail. His safety certificate indicated he was 11 years old. Enforcement action was taken on the father.

DISTRICT 3

While patrolling an area of state land that has had littering problems in the past, CO Eric Bottorff located several large piles of trash. CO Bottorff found evidence in the litter that led him to a residence. An interview with the subjects determined a young man that was being paid to take the trash to the transfer station was instead dumping it in the woods and pocketing the cash. CO Bottorff received a confession that led to five different locations where the subject had dumped trash. He was cited for littering. The

young man has also agreed to clean up all five sites and an additional two other litter sites.

CO Eric Bottorff received an unlawful burning of solid waste complaint from retired CO Bob Verberkmoes. CO Bottorff located where a sofa, chairs and other trash had been burned. A ticket was issued.

CO Richard Stowe had two illegal killing of elk complaints – one involving a cow elk and two deer, all shot in the head, with only the backstraps taken. The other was a trophy 5 x 6 bull elk also shot in the head. Both cases are currently under investigation.

A complaint from a landowner at 1:00 a.m. resulted in a gunshot deer, a rifle, and a vehicle being seized by CO Richard Stowe and Presque Isle County Sheriff Department deputies. The subjects had fled on foot. At this point, one subject has confessed and the other is still at large.

Prior to the firearm deer season, CO Michael Feagan observed a truck parked where an ORV had been unloaded and driven through a state land wildlife opening. A further check revealed empty rifle cases and a box of .308 ammunition. CO Feagan followed the ORV tracks while Sgt. Greg Drogowski waited at the truck. The subjects were observed coming out on the ORV, then stopping to shoot several trees. Contact was made and tickets were issued for possessing rifles during the five day period prior to firearms deer season and for operating an ORV in a prohibited area.

CO Michael Feagan followed up on a complaint where subjects had built a road on state land, created their own wildlife food plot and built a permanent blind. The subjects were contacted and enforcement action taken.

CO Michael Feagan and Sgt. Greg Drogowski checked an illegal deer blind on state land, where the subject had been ticketed last deer season for an untagged deer and an excessive amount of bait. The subject had stated “I haven’t bought a deer license in 20 years”. This time the subject was gone, but the blind had never been removed, bait was present, and a deer had been recently been shot and dragged out. COs went to the subject’s residence and observed an untagged buck hanging. The subject had purchased a deer tag this time, but had chosen not to use it. Upon contact, the subject stated he was “just about to tag the deer”. The subject also had deer bait/feed out behind his house, and a concealed pistol in his truck. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Eric Bottorff and Michael Feagan handled a complaint involving one deer hunter threatening another and his seven year old son, because they were hunting in “his area” on state land. COs were able to locate the person making the threats at his blind. He was hunting over bait, and ticketed for the violation.

COs Andrea Albert and Steve Speigl deployed the deer decoy in a high road hunting complaint area. Three different groups of hunters stopped and shot at “Bucky”. One car load of hunters shot at the decoy then threw the loaded 7mm mag. rifle into the back

seat. During their attempted getaway, it discharged inside the vehicle blowing a hole through the floor. Enforcement action taken.

CO Duane Budreau investigated a hunter harassment complaint where one of the subjects may have used a BB gun to assault or intimidate the other hunter. The investigation continues. CO Budreau also ticketed four individuals for hunting over bait and continues to work several illegal pre-deer season cases.

CO Nick Torsky was checking hunters early opening morning when he came upon a 73 year old hunter who was quite upset. The hunter had accidentally put his loaded magazine in his Remington semi-auto .30-06 rifle upside down and was unable to get it out. CO Torsky asked to look at the rifle and was able clear the jam putting the gentleman back in the hunt.

CO Kelly Ross was checking a camp that had bait in front of their deer blinds but no one was there. CO Ross was about to leave when he contacted a hunter in a vehicle he had seen earlier at the camp. Talking with the driver who had a six point buck and a doe in the bed of the truck, CO Ross noted the hunter said he had shot the six point, but later stated that his wife had shot the deer. CO Ross determined that the driver shot the deer and tagged it with his wife's tag. While attempting to issue a ticket to the husband, CO Ross had to call in backup, as more members of the camp showed up and attempted to interfere with the investigation. CO Joe Molnar arrived and assisted. Numerous tickets were written to camp members and the six point buck was seized.

CO Joe Molnar came upon a vehicle parked on state land late on November 14th. CO Molnar observed a gun case and decided to check the hunter, thinking maybe the hunter was getting a jump start on the season. Much to CO Molnar's surprise, he encountered two persons carrying firearms afield. At first the two guys stated they were just out tending to their blinds and were not hunting. CO Molnar located their blinds, which did not have their names and addresses on them as required, and found they had cut several trees to make shooting lanes. The two finally admitted to hunting deer that evening and CO Molnar wrote tickets to both for hunting deer during the closed season and for cutting down trees on state land.

While on foot patrol on state land, CO Joe Molnar located a pop-up blind that had been left out overnight. In front of the blind at the end of a freshly cut shooting lane were some potatoes. CO Molnar asked the hunter for his hunting license and was shown a private land antlerless license. CO Molnar ticketed the hunter for hunting without a license and for hunting over bait.

CO Bill Webster and Sgt. Chris Morris responded to a complaint shortly after dusk on November 14th of a person on state land hunting with a huge spotlight. Arriving in the area, the COs checked camps attempting to locate the subject. One camp they visited had a huge spotlight in the bed of the pickup. After further investigation it was decided that they were only returning from scouting for opening day. A check of their blind revealed sugar beets had been put out for bait. A file check indicated neither camper

had a valid driver's license and both had arrest warrants. A trip to the county jail was arranged.

CO Bill Webster and Sgt. Chris Morris entered a private land camp whose occupants had been observed baiting before the season. After checking the hunters, four tickets were issued, one for hunting deer over bait, one for feeding deer, and two for hunting without a license. Warnings were given for tagging violations.

CO Bill Webster and Sgt. Chris Morris stopped by a private land camp and found the husband and wife to be resting inside their cabin. Two deer were observed upon entering the property. One buck was in front of the cabin and a doe was out behind it. The COs asked about their hunting success and were told that the wife had killed the buck. No mentioning of the doe. Further investigation led the COs to an untagged doe. Neither the husband nor the wife had a valid antlerless license. The doe was seized and the husband was ticketed for the illegal deer.

Sgt. Chris Morris went onto private property where known baiting for deer was taking place. CO Morris found a subject hunting over bait without a license. Walking to another blind, another subject was found hunting over bait and did not have his license on him. After interviews, it was learned both had shot bucks and had not tagged them. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Chris Morris observed three persons afield on private property nearing their parked vehicles. Upon checking them at their vehicles, a gutted untagged buck was found that had been dragged by their ORV. The father said he had shot the buck and was going to tag it. He produced an unvalidated firearm deer license. The son and his girlfriend were both dressed in hunter orange and carrying loaded firearms. Neither had valid deer hunting licenses. The son was carrying his father's antlerless deer license. The father received a ticket for an untagged deer and the son received a ticket for using a borrowed license.

DNR Pilot Bill Green observed bait in front of a deer blind on private property. Sgt. Chris Morris responded and located pumpkins and squash in front of a deer blind. No one was in the blind so Sgt. Morris attempted to contact someone at camp. No one answered the door at camp, so Sgt. Morris went to the barn and knocked and still no one answered. Sgt. Morris located a freshly killed young buck caped out without a tag beside the barn and inside the barn another spike buck that was not tagged. CO Bill Webster was called in to assist. A short time later, the property owner and his son pulled in. After questioning, the father admitted shooting both bucks and forgetting to tag both and produced his firearm deer license still not validated. The son had no license and stated he had only been watching deer. The buck was seized along with the father's rifle and a ticket was issued for taking too many bucks.

DISTRICT 4

COs Brian Lebel, Mike Bomay and Sgt. Scott Wilk responded to a Mecosta County complaint where a subject was seen shooting a duck from the deck of a lakeside home. The shooter was within a number of people's safety zones. When CO Lebel and Sgt. Wilk arrived, they were admitted to the subject's residence. A baggie containing duck breasts was on the kitchen counter. Feathers and blood were on a nearby table where the duck had been cleaned. The subject admitted he had shot the duck and had no waterfowl licenses. A tagged spike horn rack was sitting just outside the front door. Examination of the tag revealed the purchase date and time. A second subject in the house admitted he had killed the deer without a license and tagged it with a friend's tag. Property seizures were made and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel and PCO Robert Crisp, while patrolling in Mecosta County, observed a subject removing a recently butchered deer carcass from a tree. The COs spoke to the subject and examined the kill tag. The tag had been purchased well after dark on the day the deer had been taken. The subject admitted he had killed the deer without a license. A check of the man's license buying history revealed numerous license buying anomalies over the years, such as extra archery and firearm licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells responded to a Newaygo County complaint where a deer had supposedly been shot with a firearm. Upon arrival at the subject's residence, CO Wells found two subjects in the yard with blood on their hands. An investigation and interview revealed two deer (a doe and a small buck) had been shot with a shotgun. One of the subjects admitted to both violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy VanGelderren was patrolling in Oceana County when he came upon a vehicle hauling a large eight point buck. While talking to the driver, CO VanGelderren was able to determine the date of the kill. Information on the tag revealed it had been purchased two hours after shooting hours on the date it was taken. The subject had taken the deer without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to a Newaygo County complaint of a subject dumping trash on federal land. The complainant had taken the vehicle's license number. When CO Ginn arrived at the subject's residence he could see a deer hanging in a pole barn. An examination of the deer found that it was not tagged. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Rademacher and PCO Robert Crisp caught a subject hunting from a tree stand in full camouflage with a rifle. The man said he was merely hunting squirrels. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Borkovich and PCO Mark Papineau ticketed a bow hunter for littering in Leelanau County. The hunter had left numerous beer cans around his stand.

CO Mike Borkovich and PCO Mark Papineau ticketed a deer hunter for purchasing too many deer hunting licenses. The subject had been purchasing too many licenses the last five out of six years.

CO Jair Kollasch ticketed a subject for illegal disposal of solid waste in Wexford County. The subject was burning a mattress and building materials.

CO Jair Kollasch assisted local deputies with a hunting accident in Wexford County. A bow hunter fell out of his stand after concluding his morning hunt. It appears the hunter had taken off his safety harness and tripped on a cable attached to the stand. The hunter suffered a severe neck injury, and was on life support for a week before succumbing to his injuries.

CO Jair Kollasch ticketed three brothers for violation of the baiting ban in Wexford County. The three brothers own property on the same road and had put out a significant amount of bait.

CO Sam Kosciński ticketed a subject in Wexford County for violation of the baiting and feeding ban. The subject had a feeder filled with approximately 1000 lbs of shelled corn.

CO Sean Kehoe and PCO Kevin Postma followed up on two different complaints of safety zone violations by waterfowl hunters in Grand Traverse County. In one incident the hunters were ticketed for hunting within the 450 feet safety zone. In the second incident, which involved four hunters, one hunter was ticketed for an unplugged firearm, and another hunter was ticketed for the safety zone violation.

CO Sean Kehoe and PCO Kevin Postma contacted a bow hunter in Grand Traverse County on their second attempt. The subject was hunting near some apple trees but the apples under the trees had store labels on them. The hunter stated that the apples were under apple trees but the COs pointed out that store labels don't appear normally on apple crops. The subject was ticketed for the baiting violation, given a verbal warning for trespassing on Consumers Energy property, and for purchasing two archery deer licenses.

CO Diane Drogowski and Sgt. Michelle Wiegand contacted a subject bow hunting without a license in Grand Traverse County. When the COs asked to see his license he handed CO Drogowski an antlerless license that was already validated. The subject was not in possession of any identification, so when the COs asked for verbal identification he gave a name different from the license he had just handed to them. After speaking with the subject at some length, and after the subject was advised he was receiving a ticket, he decided to be truthful. The subject stated that he had given the COs an antlerless license belonging to one of his brothers. He had then given a second brother's name as his own. He advised he didn't want his second brother to get a ticket for his mistake. The subject was a Florida resident and ticketed for hunting without a license.

COs Carolyn Dice and Angela Greenway were driving on a Lake County two track to follow up on bait piles that CO Dice had found earlier in the week on state land. On their way they encountered a vehicle coming toward them from the direction of the bait.

The COs contacted the occupants and found open intoxicants in the vehicle. A conversation with the two led to a walk back to their tree stands where it was found that they had just dumped several gallons of corn.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling along a road in Manistee County when he observed a person holding a bow and arrow coming out of the woods near a parked vehicle. The subject looked over at Officer Converse, dropped the bow and continued walking in the direction of the vehicle. CO Converse contacted the hunter and found that he was from out of state visiting relatives and failed to purchase a hunting license.

CO Brian Brosky received a complaint of a local Mason County individual who was seen driving down the road with a large amount of sugar beets in the back of his truck. Knowing that the person owned property locally and that there was a bait flight that week, CO Brosky asked for a "fly-by". The subject who purchased the beets was subsequently contacted in his tree stand over his newly purchased bait.

CO Jim Espinoza received complaints from three different land owners regarding a downstate trapper who was trespassing on their property. After several unsuccessful attempts to locate the trapper, CO Espinoza advised the complainants to call if they saw the subject vehicle in the area. Later that week, the vehicle was located by a landowner and CO Espinoza was able to contact the trapper checking traps and trespassing.

Prior to the firearm deer season, CO Jeff Ginn received a complaint from a bow hunter. The man had heard a rifle shot nearby and went to investigate. He came upon a subject he knew who had blood on his hands. After a short conversation the bow hunter went home and called the Report-All-Poaching (RAP) line. CO Ginn was close by and went to the subject's residence. He could see a truck parked back near the woods. CO Ginn found the subject skinning a deer on the ground. The animal had been shot with a .30-.30. The man said he did not think he would have enough time to hunt during the gun season and needed a head start. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel and PCO Robert Crisp were patrolling in Mecosta County prior to the firearm deer season and observed a doe hanging in a tree at a house. The doe was tagged but with the tag from a different deer management unit (DMU). When it was all sorted out it was discovered that the subject who took the deer bought the license after killing it. There were no licenses left where he had shot the deer so he got one from a DMU in the southern part of the state.

CO Troy VanGelderren and Sgt. Scott Wilk were working in Oceana County on opening day. They stopped a vehicle coming out of the woods with two button bucks on the back. The deer turned out to have been shot on commercial forest land and tagged with antlerless tags from a different DMU. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel and PCO Robert Crisp were on foot in Mecosta County on opening day. They heard a shot nearby and observed an obviously intoxicated subject standing by the side of the road. When they approached him, PCO Crisp observed a deer laying in

the woods several yards away. The deer turned out to be a doe. The subject had no antlerless tag for public property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel and PCO Robert Crisp checked a subject in the woods on opening day. The subject stated he had taken a spike horn during the bow season. Fresh evidence indicated that the man had handled another deer recently. When the subject presented his licenses, he still had all of his tags. Further investigation revealed he had taken an eight point buck earlier in the day. Adding in no hunter orange, ORV and baiting violations, the subject had eight violations total. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy VanGelderren checked an Oceana County hunter on federal land. The man had a private land antlerless tag in his pocket that had been validated on 11-16-08. The subject stated he had not yet taken a deer. CO VanGelderren asked him why he had already cut his tag. The man replied "wishful thinking". Fresh blood on his boots indicated otherwise. Back at the subject's camp, an untagged antlerless deer was found that had been shot on public land. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells responded to a Newaygo County trespass complaint. When he was done with the investigation he was able to recover a doe which had been shot over bait while trespassing and tagged with a Mecosta DMU tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jair Kollasch contacted a subject on opening day of the firearm deer season who was hunting while intoxicated. The subject failed the field sobriety tests, was taken into custody, and lodged at the Wexford County jail.

CO Jair Kollasch and Sgt. Michelle Wiegand were following up on a baiting complaint in Wexford County and contacted two hunters. Both were hunting from illegal tree stands and hunting over bait. One of the hunters was also hunting without a license.

CO Sean Kehoe and PCO Kevin Postma ticketed a subject for careless discharge of a firearm in Grand Traverse County. The subject was participating in a deer drive on private property when he fired a shot at a deer, and after waiting for the deer to clear a residence, the subject fired two more times at the deer. One of the two second bullets hit a pickup camper parked in a yard. Another hunter was using the camper as a blind and the bullet passed within a foot of the hunter in the camper. The subject was also violating the safety zone of a nearby residence.

CO Sam Koscinski was patrolling when he observed a vehicle with what appeared to be blood on the tailgate and rear quarter panel of the vehicle. The CO stopped the vehicle and contacted the passengers. As CO Koscinski was speaking to the driver and his passenger, a still alive spike horn was attempting to get out of the bed of the truck. After interviewing the two subjects, the driver admitted to shooting the deer from inside the vehicle. When the driver shot from inside the vehicle, the recoil caused the scope to strike him in the forehead, leaving an impression. Charges will be sought through the Missaukee County Prosecutors office.

CO Mike Borkovich and PCO Mark Papineau ticketed three different hunters in Leelanau County for violating the Quality Deer Management regulations.

CO Mike Borkovich and PCO Mark Papineau contacted a hunter in Leelanau County who fired at three bucks running at him across a field. The hunter killed two of the three bucks. The subject tagged one of the bucks with an antlerless tag from another county and did not tag the second buck. The subject stated that he did not know he had killed the first buck before he shot at the second buck.

CO Diane Drogowski received an anonymous complaint of a mechanical feeder behind a residence in Grand Traverse County. CO Drogowski went to the location of the complaint and attempted to contact the homeowner but no one was home at the time. The CO located the feeder and observed blood and deer hair under the feeder. CO Drogowski returned to the residence after 10:00 p.m. that same evening and contacted the homeowner. After interviewing the homeowner he admitted to shooting a four point buck during the archery season with a 22 caliber rifle from the residence. CO Drogowski seized a 22 caliber rifle, packages of venison from the freezer and the four point rack. A warrant will be sought for the illegal deer and for violating the baiting and feeding ban.

CO Diane Drogowski received a trespass complaint from a farmer in Grand Traverse County. The farmers had removed a permanent tree stand from their property but a few days later found that the permanent stand had been replaced by a new portable tree stand. CO Drogowski contacted a hunter using the stand opening morning of the firearm season and ticketed him for recreational trespass.

CO Diane Drogowski was driving by a residence in Grand Traverse County when she observed two subjects standing at the bed of a pickup truck looking at a deer in the bed. The CO contacted the subjects and observed that the deer was not gutted and was not tagged. One of the subjects was ticketed for failing to immediately tag the deer.

CO Diane Drogowski ticketed a subject in Grand Traverse County for planting several food plots on state land. The subject destroyed several trees when clearing a site for the food plots.

COs Carolyn Dice and Angela Greenway were patrolling rural Lake County when they observed a deer that did not appear to be tagged hanging in a tree at a seasonal cabin. The COs drove up to speak with the property owner. As they spoke with the owner they observed a deer feeder with a small amount of corn inside and a large pile of pumpkins behind the cabin. The property owner attempted to explain that he felt that the feed was legal since the feeder had not been taken down due to a bad shoulder and he hadn't filled it for a while. He then went on to explain that the pumpkins were placed to feed raccoons.

COs Angela Greenway and Carolyn Dice walked in to check on a ground blind that was nailed into trees on state land in Lake County. When they arrived at the blind they

found a hunter inside and a large bait pile nearby. The subject admitted to constructing the blind and placing the bait. After receiving the tickets the hunter shook their hands and thanked the COs for doing their job.

COs Angela Greenway and Carolyn Dice followed a trail of reflective tape into an illegal blind on state land in Lake County and found a man hunting near a large pile of apples, corn, and sugar beets. The hunter stated that he had not put the tape on the trees and that a bow hunter must have put the bait on his hunting spot. The COs followed the hunter back to his vehicle where they found a roll of matching reflective tape and additional bags of apples and corn. The hunter eventually admitted that he had not been truthful and had been baiting.

CO Brian Brosky was patrolling north Mason County when he encountered five hunters walking out of the woods. Three of the five were not wearing hunter orange garments. When asked why they were not wearing orange one stated that they had forgotten their orange back at camp but figured that since they were on private property it would be all right if they disregarded the regulation.

CO Brian Brosky was patrolling central Mason County when he observed a juvenile with a rifle and no hunter orange walk into the woods and enter a blind. CO Brosky checked the youth and found that he was hunting unsupervised. A visit to his grandfather's blind led to the discovery of a large pile of corn and sugar beets nearby. The grandfather boldly stated that he placed the bait and that he did not believe the baiting ban was justified. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carla Soper stopped to check two antlerless deer hanging at a camp on the firearm opener. CO Soper observed that neither had tags attached and contacted the owner of the camp. The subject stated that he took both deer in Manistee County. CO Soper asked him for the tags, and the subject could only produce an antlerless tag from Shiawassee County and a firearm license. Both deer were seized, and the subject was ticketed for the illegal deer.

CO Jim Espinoza received a complaint regarding six subjects who were hunting from blinds over bait in north Mason County. A check of the location resulted in two tickets related to hunter orange requirements and three tickets for hunting over bait.

COs Jim Espinoza and Brian Brosky located a felon in possession of a firearm while hunting after receiving a complaint from a local Mason County citizen. A visit to the complaint location resulted in the apprehension of the felon and a second subject hunting, trespassing and failing to wear hunter orange.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling in Manistee County when he encountered a group of hunters near their vehicles. While speaking with the hunters, he discovered that one of them had forgotten his hunting license. The hunter also had blood on his hands but failed to inform the CO that he had just shot a deer. After being asked directly about the

blood on his hands, the hunter admitted to having shot a deer. The deer had been left concealed in the woods.

CO Steve Converse was driving down a Manistee County rural road when he observed a vehicle headlighting a field. CO Converse stopped the vehicle and spoke with the driver. The driver said that he was "looking for deer" and admitted to having a firearm and ammunition in the vehicle. CO Converse issued a ticket for shining with a weapon in possession.

COs Steve Converse and Carla Soper, along with Sgt. Kevin Hackworth, followed up on a baiting site found during a recent bait flight in Manistee County. The COs arrived at the site just as a hunter and his son were arriving in a pickup truck. The driver was contacted and it was discovered that the two subjects had loaded guns and an uncased crossbow in the vehicle. It was further discovered that another juvenile was hunting the property unsupervised. Tickets were issued for the violations.

CO Steve Converse was following up on a suspicious situation involving an antlerless deer that was taken across from a residence in rural Manistee County. A visit to the scene revealed fresh drag marks and blood leading from a field to a deer hanging in a tree at the residence. CO Converse spoke with the property owner and checked the tag on the animal. The tag indicated that it was issued to the landowner and was to be used for Wexford County. While checking the tag he observed a second deer lying on the ground near the house. A conversation with a second individual at the residence resulted in the discovery that the second deer was also taken from an adjacent field. The tag, however was also for Wexford County. The property owner stated that although he had owned the property for many years, he thought it was in Wexford County.

CO Carolyn Dice was following up on a baiting complaint in Lake County when she encountered a landowner loading a 50 gallon drum feeder with corn. The landowner had five other stands baited with these large feeders that were to be leased to out-of-state hunters. The subject was ticketed.

CO Carla Soper was patrolling northeast Manistee County when she encountered a hunter driving along a two-track road with an uncased, loaded firearm on the backseat. The hunter claimed that the cold and snow had driven him out of the woods so quickly that he didn't have time to unload and properly case his firearm. Ticket issued for transporting a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

DISTRICT 5

CO Chuck McPherson investigated a litter complaint reported by an individual who witnessed a vehicle with a rental trailer leaving the scene. Officer McPherson was able to obtain the name of a subject who rented the trailer from the rental company. The subject had just had his roof re-shingled and told the roofers not to use a dumpster in order to save on costs. Instead, he showed them a location on state land and told them

to dump the old shingles there. The roofers and the homeowner were both ticketed for litter and fined \$625 each.

CO Mike Hearn encountered a vehicle parked sideways on a two-track trail. CO Hearn contacted the driver who had his loaded deer rifle in the front seat. The subject told the CO he was using his vehicle as a deer blind and thought it would be okay.

CO Chris Bowen assisted local deputies with a subject who had barricaded himself in his residence with loaded firearms. The officers pulled two small children from their room where they had been hiding from the subject. The subject eventually was taken into custody.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz ticketed a subject who had just shot from his vehicle onto private property and was found to have a loaded .30-.30 and an uncased bow in the vehicle.

CO William Cherry checked a hunter who did not have her license with her. She indicated her husband had the license with him. While talking to her, CO Cherry observed the husband's vehicle headed their way. When the subject spotted the CO, he turned the vehicle around and left the scene. CO Cherry contacted the husband who had a loaded firearm in his vehicle. The subject had previously been ticketed by conservation officers on six different occasions.

Having received a deer baiting complaint, CO William Cherry went to the property in an attempt to locate the owner and observed a spin cast feeder. In checking further, Officer Cherry located the owner with an untagged deer and a loaded firearm in his truck. The owner initially claimed there was no bait on the property but later admitted to baiting.

CO John Huspen and PCO Seth Rhodea located a vehicle in a remote area of state land late at night. The subjects had an uncased deer rifle in the cab of the truck and admitted to the COs that they had been using a small handheld flashlight to shine for deer and were trying to shoot a deer. Enforcement action taken.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz received a complaint of a stolen tree stand. The subject told the CO that his stand was stolen from his property, and further stated that the subject had shot a deer and come onto his property to gut and retrieve it along with the subject's tree stand. When CO Liestenfeltz contacted the subject, he had two bait piles next to his trailer and was hunting with a crossbow without a permit.

While responding to a trespass complaint, CO John Huspen and PCO Seth Rhodea contacted two subjects who were deer hunting. One hunter could not produce a license and stated he must have lost his firearm deer license. A check on the computer confirmed that the subject had not purchased a firearm deer license. The COs continued on to deal with the trespass complaint where a subject was caught hunting a fenced military range closed to the public. The subject had been ticketed several times previously for trespass while hunting.

This past summer, CO Mike Hearn located five old permanent tree stands on state land. He checked the stands again before the firearm deer season and found one baited for deer hunting. When Officer Hearn contacted the hunter on opening day, the hunter admitted to using bait but said he had just found the stand. During the conversation, the subject let it slip that his buddies helped build some stands five years previous which led to a confession to CO Hearn. The subject agreed to remove the five permanent stands.

CO Warren MacNeill and PCO Shane Webster cited a subject who had killed a nice four point buck without having purchased a hunting license.

CO Brian Olsen responded to a complaint after receiving a map in the mail from an anonymous source that showed the location of an illegal blind on state land. When Officer Olsen located the blind the day before the opener, he found a subject hunting deer with a firearm. A ticket was issued.

CO Tami Pullen responded to a call from a MSP trooper who had stopped a car and arrested the driver for possession of marijuana. During the search of the car, he found an untagged deer. CO Pullen issued a ticket for an untagged deer.

COs Tami Pullen and Rebecca Hopkins assisted MSP in an investigation of a sexual assault that occurred at a deer camp. While conducting the investigation, the COs located an illegally killed deer and arrested the subject for the violation.

CO Joel Lundberg located a live trap containing a muskrat. He checked the trap repeatedly and the owner never returned to check it. CO Lundberg contacted the owner and determined that in addition to the violation for not checking his live trap, he had an overlimit of river otter. A ticket was issued.

CO Joel Lundberg contacted a hunter who had bragged about the doe he had shot a week earlier. During the check of his hunting license, CO Lundberg found the hunter's doe tag. The subject confessed to not having tagged the doe he had been bragging about. Charges were filed.

COs Joel Lundberg and Steve Lockwood, along with PCO Kyle Bader, responded to a complaint from a farmer who had watched a car pull up to his field and shoot at a deer. A BOL was put out for the subject vehicle. A short time later, the subject vehicle was stopped by a sheriff's deputy in a neighboring county. The COs contacted the driver and obtained a confession from three subjects to shooting at the deer. Tickets were issued.

CO Steve Lockwood and PCO Kyle Bader observed occupants of a vehicle shining for deer. Upon stopping the vehicle, the COs found open intoxicants and an uncased .17 cal. rifle. A continued search of the vehicle revealed an empty .17 shell casing. The subjects then admitted to shining and shooting at deer. Tickets were issued but, in the interest of "trying to make it all better", the subjects provided information to the COs

about a 9-point buck that had been shot with a gun prior to the season opener. Follow-up on the information, assisted by CO Jason McCullough, led to the arrest of two subjects for killing the 9-point buck with a firearm during the closed season.

DISTRICT 6

CO Ken Lowell observed two deer on an ORV and made a stop. The investigation revealed that both deer were untagged. CO Lowell asked the hunter where the tags were. The hunter told the CO that he had not bought the tags yet but he was going to. While the CO was dealing with the hunter he observed another hunter look at him and then take off in his pickup truck in a hurry. The CO was able to catch up to the vehicle and found two more untagged deer, a buck and a doe. The hunter said he thought the buck was a doe and did not have a tag for a buck and said he just forgot to tag the doe. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Scott Brown was just pulling into his driveway from working the deer season opener when Huron County Central Dispatch called with a complaint of two subjects gutting a deer right in the middle of a main road. CO Brown caught up with the subjects after they were chased off by the landowner. CO Brown observed them just tagging the deer upon his arrival and found another kill tag not validated. Upon further checking, an unregistered handgun was found and seized. Tickets were written for the tagging violations.

CO Ken Lowell checked a pair of deer hunters after dark just arriving at their vehicle. One of the hunters went over to the CO to talk while the other one put an uncased firearm in the vehicle and then got in and shut the door. When the CO asked the hunter in the vehicle for his hunting license he advised he left it at home. Upon further investigation it was found that he never bought a license. A ticket for hunting without a license was issued.

CO Robert Hobkirk responded to a complaint in the Verona State Game Area of an intoxicated subject driving around with a rifle shot deer, threatening the campers. Upon locating the subject at his residence, CO Hobkirk found he and his brother skinning out a deer in a barn. The subject immediately closed the barn door and ran into a cornfield upon CO Hobkirk's arrival. CO Hobkirk found a loaded shotgun and 7mm magnum rifle in the subject's car. Assistance was given for the search of the subject by the Huron County and Sanilac County Sheriff's Departments, as well as a K-9 officer, who eventually pushed the subject out of the cornfield to CO Hobkirk. CO Hobkirk took the subject into custody and charged him with an illegal deer, possession of loaded guns in a motor vehicle, possession of firearms while intoxicated, driving while license suspended, and resisting and obstructing arrest.

CO Ken Lowell observed a deer hunter walking across the road from private property to state land. When the hunter saw the CO he ran back across the road and into his driveway. Just as the CO pulled into the drive the hunter was putting his firearm in his vehicle. The hunter said he forgot his license at his residence and would go get it. A

check of the license system showed that he did not purchase a deer license. A ticket was issued for hunting without a license.

CO Holly Pennoni, along with the Michigan State Police (MSP) responded to a complaint of a possible breaking and entering in progress. Upon arriving at the residence, she stopped a vehicle that just pulled out of the driveway. Inside the truck CO Pennoni found three deer that had not been processed that had been shot inside a privately owned cervid (POC) facility that is still under quarantine. The deer were seized and charges are pending for violating the quarantine rules.

CO Ken Lowell checked a camp on state land in Montcalm County. The CO observed a doe hanging from a tree that was tagged with a Saginaw County antlerless tag. The hunter told the CO that he told the lady at the store that he wanted a doe tag for Montcalm County. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeremy Payne observed a hunter walking out of the woods with a firearm and no hunter orange. Further investigation revealed that the hunter was not hunting with a valid hunting license, had an uncased loaded firearm in his motor vehicle and was in possession of marijuana.

CO Vicki Goss investigated a littering complaint on state land and obtained a subject name from items left in the trash. The subject told the CO that he left the trash at the home that he just moved out of and the landlord was going to take care of it. The landlord said that she personally took the trash to her grandmother's dumpster. The CO found that there was in fact a dumpster but it was completely full. The CO went back to the landlord who then said that she paid two high school boys to remove the trash but refused to give the CO the names. The landlord was issued a ticket for littering.

While investigating several complaints of illegal baiting, CO Larn Strawn set out on a patrol of several hundred acres of hunting property in Isabella County. While conducting the patrol the CO located several huge bait sites baited with sugar beets. While at one of the illegal bait sites, the CO observed a hunter had recently and hastily fled from the site. The hunter's bag was still hanging in the tree, binoculars were still hanging in the tree and an arrow was stuck in the ground directly below the tree stand as if the hunter had simply threw it or dropped it down. The CO began to photograph the scene and observed another clue that the hunter had recently fled. The hunter's cell phone was on the ground near the base of the tree. The phone was buzzing and blinking "New Message". A closer look at the lost phone revealed a series of text messages warning the hunter the "DNR" was coming and to get out and lock the gate. Hours later the CO caught the hunter leaving the property with two family members who came to sneak him out. The hunter was ticketed for hunting over the illegal bait.

CO Phil Hudson received a call from a hunter stating that a subject just walked into the woods, dumped a bag of apples and began hunting on private property. Upon arriving on scene, the CO entered the woods and the subject jumped out of a tree and began running. The subject had about a 200 yard head start on the CO but when the subject

ran into a tree the CO was able to take advantage and close the gap. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Hobkirk received a complaint of a vehicle driving around the Gagetown State Game Area shining and shooting deer. CO Hobkirk was unable to locate the vehicle but hid his patrol truck in the area and waited. The vehicle in question drove by a short while later and was shining again. The vehicle was stopped and ticketed for using an artificial light to take game. The passenger was also lodged on numerous warrants.

While on patrol during the opening weekend of firearm deer season, CO Larn Strawn received a complaint that a hunter had shot and killed a donkey. The CO responded to the scene and discovered a large four year old pet donkey had been shot and killed by a deer hunter. While contacting the hunter, the CO quickly observed the hunter smelled of intoxicants. After further investigation the CO determined the incident was clearly a case of reckless discharge and hunting while under the influence of intoxicants. The CO arrested the hunter and lodged him in the Isabella County Jail.

CO Daniel Lee and PCO Matt Theunick responded to a complaint of a subject shooting at deer from his backyard with a rifle during bow season. The complainant was a neighbor two doors down who was watching the deer with a spotting scope when the shots were fired. Upon arrival the COs observed a subject in the yard running behind the barn with a rifle. PCO Theunick asked the subject what he was doing with the firearm and the subject said that he didn't know why the COs were there and that he didn't shoot at a deer. Tickets were issued.

CO Dan Lee, PCO Matt Theunick and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly investigated two deer hanging in a tree behind a residence. The 11 point buck and the doe each had a tag attached. Upon closer examination of the tags it was found that the hunter had not validated the doe tag and had chosen to fill out everything on the buck tag except the date and antler portion. It was also found that the doe was shot in Shiawassee County but the tag on the doe was for Clinton County. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Holly Pennoni stopped a vehicle driving suspiciously down isolated back roads. Upon stopping the vehicle, she found five occupants inside with five uncased rifles. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Scott Brown responded to a baiting complaint but upon locating the hunter, found no bait at that location. Upon checking the hunter's licenses, CO Brown discovered he had shot two deer and had not tagged either of them; and also had purchased two combination deer licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Hobkirk was patrolling after dark for shining activity when he observed a group of hunters walking through the woods, shining every tree without using dogs and carrying a .22 caliber rifle. The hunter with the rifle did not have a license and was issued a ticket.

CO Robert Hobkirk is involved in an ongoing investigation involving a complaint of a subject driving around and shooting a rifle at deer from the vehicle. The vehicle was observed stopped at a dead end road. The driver exited the car and went into a ditch and a few minutes later he exited the ditch and left in the car. CO Hobkirk located a .44 magnum rifle hidden under the leaves in the ditch and has identified the juvenile driver's identity. The investigation is ongoing.

While watching a group of field duck hunters, CO Joshua Wright observed the group shoot ducks well after shooting hours ended. Tickets were written.

CO Jason Smith found a deer hunter with an untagged deer and when asked why the deer was not tagged, the hunter told CO Smith he thought he didn't have to tag the deer if it only had one antler or if he was going to give the deer away to someone else. A ticket was written for the violation.

CO Jason Smith responded to a road hunting complaint and ended up writing a ticket for discharging a firearm onto private property without permission. He also wrote a ticket for an untagged deer on another road hunting complaint.

CO Jason Smith investigated a possible gunshot deer before the firearm opener. Upon checking the deer, it was found to be shot with a bow but was untagged. A ticket was written for the untagged deer.

CO Holly Pennoni worked a complaint of subjects shining and shooting deer. The vehicle in question drove almost to where CO Pennoni was hiding and shined the woods right next to where she was sitting. Upon stopping the vehicle, a loaded .22 caliber rifle was found. Tickets were written to both occupants.

While working waterfowl hunters at Nayanquing Point, CO Pennoni stopped an ARGO ATV coming out of the marsh. CO Pennoni found two hen mallards inside with two hunters. Upon going back out into the marsh and checking the fathers of the other two hunters, three more hen mallards were found. Enforcement action was taken.

Upon making her first hunter contact on the firearm deer opener, CO Holly Pennoni stopped to check a pick up truck leaving a farm field. Upon checking the vehicle, she found both occupants had loaded firearms inside and an antlerless deer that was shot without a license. The deer and firearms were seized and tickets were written for the violations.

DISTRICT 7

CO Ken Cerny responded to a complaint of three subjects trespassing in St Joseph County. CO Cerny observed two of the trespassers exiting the property empty handed while a local county deputy contacted the third subject. After interviewing the subjects, CO Cerny was taken back onto the property to a location where the two subjects had disposed of their firearms prior to exiting. CO Cerny also located an 8 point buck that

was shot by one of the subjects. Neither of the two subjects who had tossed their guns had licenses to hunt deer. All subjects were arrested for trespassing, one subject was written for taking deer without a license, and another subject for hunting deer without a license.

Investigating a deer tagging violation, CO Zach Doss discovered that the hunter had not taken a required hunter safety class. When trying to locate the hunter to ask him why he did not have a required hunter safety certificate, CO Doss was informed that the subject was currently out hunting. A check of the licenses system revealed that he had not purchased another license. CO Doss located the hunter afield attempting to take another deer, and when asked what he would do if he shot another deer, the subject advised he would either borrow a tag or go buy another license.

While patrolling hunter access private land in Berrien County, CO Andy Bauer observed a pickup truck stuck and buried to the frame. CO Bauer ascertained the subject had shot a deer, drove to retrieve it, and proceeded to get stuck while trying to return to the road. Checking the deer, CO Bauer found that the deer was improperly tagged.

COs Jeff Robinette and Mike McGee walked in on property on the opening day of the firearm deer season and discovered that the landowner was illegally baiting. COs had located approximately 12 salt blocks at a number of different tree blinds on the property. COs located and ticketed the landowner for hunting over bait.

Back in 2007, CO Steve Mooney got a tip that subjects were trespassing on property in Van Buren County. Unable to catch the subjects back then, CO Mooney recalled the incident and on the opening day of firearm season 2008 returned to the property. CO Mooney observed four subjects hunting the property without permission. All were ticketed for trespassing.

Following up on a RAP complaint of a subject hunting with a crossbow, CO Ken Cerny located and contacted the subject while he was out hunting. As it turned out, the subject did not have a crossbow but was in possession of a .22 rifle and did not have a valid hunting license.

COs Gerard Goulette and Ivan Perez responded to a complaint of a subject shooting a wild turkey behind a residence. The COs contacted the subject, who denied shooting at a turkey and later confessed and led the COs to the illegal bird where feathers and a shotgun wadding were located. The subject was ticketed for the killing of a wild turkey.

COs Gerard Goulette and Ivan Perez contacted a subject waterfowl hunting using an unplugged shotgun with a pistol grip and folding stock. A record check revealed the subject to be a convicted felon. A ticket was issued for the unplugged gun and charges were filed for the felon with a firearm violation.

CO Gerard Goulette and Sgt. Dave Shaw worked a waterfowl patrol utilizing kayaks in the Muskegon marsh and had two subjects motor up to them on an isolated creek. The

subjects were found to be in possession of loaded shotguns, one gun unplugged, no life jackets and no watercraft registration. The subjects were ticketed for the waterfowl violations.

CO Greg Patten and PCO Jared Ferguson responded to a complaint of a subject burning over 20 vehicle tires. The subject was ticketed for the illegal disposal of solid waste.

CO Steve Orange received a complaint from a bow hunter who witnessed a subject shoot a buck with a firearm. CO Orange responded and was able to approach the subject after dark, undetected, and observed the subject field dress the deer. The subject was contacted and confessed to the illegal killing. The deer and a .20 gauge shotgun were seized with the subject being ticketed for the illegal deer.

Chief Gary Hagler and Sgt. Dave Shaw were patrolling the CWD core area on the opener of the firearm deer season when they contacted a hunting party with an apparent hunter orange violation. Two of the subjects were unable to display deer tags and stated that the tags were back in their blind. One of the subjects offered to go retrieve his deer tags. Chief Hagler and Sgt. Shaw stated that they would go along to the blind location. The subject then stated that his son had shot a five point buck and they had walked up to the barnyard to get a knife and the vehicle. Once at the blind the COs located a second downed buck that the subject had failed to mention. Neither buck was tagged and two knives and gloves were located on the second deer, a nine point buck. A ticket was issued for the tagging violation.

CO Greg Patten responded to a RAP complaint of shots fired before the firearm deer season and discovered two subjects without hunter orange in a pop-up blind with a loaded AK47 rifle overlooking a bait pile. No evidence of a deer being taken was discovered and the subjects were issued tickets for the hunting violations.

CO Greg Patten and PCO Jared Ferguson responded to a complaint of an illegal bait pile. While inspecting the large bait pile, a subject was discovered hunting with a shotgun and slugs dressed in full camouflage. The subject did not possess any deer hunting licenses and was ticketed for the bait and license violation.

CO Dave Rodgers responded to a complaint from Kentwood Police Department concerning their officers discovering three untagged deer when they responded to a domestic complaint. Initial investigation revealed that the deer were shot with a crossbow over a lighted bait pile at the back of the subject's residence. Warrants will be sought for the illegal deer violations.

COs Gerard Goulette and Ivan Perez responded to a complaint of a landowner hearing a shot and discovering a downed antlerless deer. The complainant said he was approached by several subjects who stated it was their deer and left with it on the hood of a vehicle. A short distance down the two-track the subjects were observed leaving the deer in the woods along the road. The COs hid their patrol vehicle and took up

surveillance on the deer. Shortly after dark, the subjects returned for the deer and were contacted by the COs. The subject who shot the deer had just purchased an antlerless deer license and admitted to hunting without a license. The subject was ticketed for the deer violation.

CO Chris Holmes contacted a group coming in from waterfowl hunting at Fort Custer. He discovered the vessel was unregistered, there were no life jackets aboard and all firearms were still loaded while the boat was underway. In addition, a youth hunter was found to not have a waterfowl license. CO Holmes advised the group of their many violations and took appropriate enforcement action.

CO Chris Holmes received a complaint at his residence from central dispatch who advised two hunters had just witnessed a subject shoot a small buck from a vehicle in a field near their hunting location in Kalamazoo County. They provided a registration plate and further descriptions to CO Holmes and he was able to locate the subject in Calhoun County within two hours. CO Holmes recovered the deer, located the vehicle, gun and subject to obtain a full confession to the incident. Enforcement action was taken and tickets were issued.

COs Chris Holmes and Paul Higashi worked a reoccurring trespass complaint on opening day in Kalamazoo County. When they arrived, they found an illegal ORV trail entering private land and eventually contacted three hunters riding an ORV who were leaving the area where they were trespassing. Two of the subjects were ticketed at this location last year. The COs also discovered baiting violations; one had no deer license and all had uncased guns on the ORV. Several tickets were issued.

CO Gary Raak worked on a complaint of a large buck shot with a firearm a couple of days prior to the firearm deer season behind the subject's home in Barry County. CO Raak contacted the subject at his residence who confessed to the taking of the deer with a firearm and led him to another location where he had hung the deer in the woods waiting for the gun opener. CO Raak seized the deer and ticketed the subject for taking a deer with a firearm during closed season and then arrested the subject on an outstanding felony drug warrant. He was lodged at the Barry County Jail.

CO Jeff Rabbers worked a baiting complaint in Barry County where he located two bait piles near a residence. Upon contact with the subject he advised he knew it was illegal and he would pick the piles up. CO Rabbers ticketed the subject who was also wanted on an outstanding arrest warrant.

CO Jeff Rabbers and Sgt. John Jurcich stopped to check a hunter sitting in a blind along the edge of a field. As CO Rabbers approached, the hunter, wearing full camouflage clothing, fled on foot. After a lengthy foot search of the area, CO Rabbers located the subject who was just released from probation. Upon contacting the rest of the hunting party, tickets were written for no hunter orange and no deer licenses.

CO Jeff Rabbers and Sgt. John Jurcich responded to a complaint of shots fired from a corn picker just before dark in Ionia County. Upon locating the corn harvester still working in the field, the COs maintained a surveillance of the area after dark watching the operation. During this event they observed three subjects nearby drive a vehicle into a swale and load a deer on the truck and drive to a nearby residence. The COs made contact at this location and discovered an untagged doe had just been brought to the residence, having been taken in the last two hours. While speaking to the hunter who was otherwise licensed to take the antlerless deer, he advised they always bring them in this way, tagging them at the residence. CO Rabbers began to examine the tag on a buck taken earlier in the day, noting the time of purchase was late in the morning of the 15th. CO Rabbers obtained a confession from the hunter that he had his mother go buy a tag for the deer so he would not have to use the two combination licenses he still had in possession. Several tickets were issued at the scene.

CO Patrick McManus received a call from central dispatch on the firearm deer opener regarding two women who had stopped to assist a hunter who had fallen in a ditch along the road and appeared to be intoxicated. During the incident, the hunter was picked up by a driver along the road who thought he would assist in transporting the hunter home. A sheriff's deputy was able to conduct a traffic stop on the transporting vehicle and detain the intoxicated hunter who was seated inside with an uncased black powder rifle. CO McManus continued the investigation to determine the hunter had no hunting license, had no idea where he was, and a preliminary breath test indicated he was over three times the legal limit of intoxication. The subject was lodged at the county jail for possession of a firearm while intoxicated and uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.

CO McManus contacted a subject hunting from a full size wooden deer blind affixed to the bed of a pick-up truck in Allegan County. The blind was the type normally found elevated on large poles or posts. The hunter explained he did not have time to erect the blind so he thought he would put it on top of his truck and hunt from there. He was ticketed for uncased firearm upon a motor vehicle at his hunting location and it was determined that he did not have a valid driver's license.

CO Chuck Towns and CO Mike Mshar responded to a complaint where three subjects, two of whom were juveniles, used vehicle headlights on a cornfield to shine and shoot a small buck. The investigation determined two of the occupants had actually shot the deer and the COs were able to contact the parents of the juveniles and enforcement actions were taken with each subject.

CO Mike Mshar investigated a complaint of a subject failing to tag deer. CO Mshar was able to locate the hunter during a patrol and waited approximately three hours for him to return to his vehicle. During the contact the subject was found to be in possession of all of his purchased antlerless deer tags. He also admitted to taking a deer with his bow and then led CO Mshar onto the property to show him a carcass with only the back strap meat removed. The hunter claimed by the time he recovered the deer, that was the only meat that was still good. He was ticketed for failing to tag the animal or

validate his kill tag. CO Mshar returned to the area and conducted a search to find another carcass with the meat removed in a similar manner. He interviewed the hunter at his residence and obtained a confession to a second antlerless deer the hunter had failed to tag. The hunter was ticketed again for his failure to validate his kill tag.

CO Mike Mshar was conducting a night patrol in Allegan County on the evening of November 14th when he observed a vehicle shining. As he attempted to stop the vehicle he observed an object being thrown from the window as the vehicle continued driving, failing to stop. CO Mshar made a traffic stop, contacted the occupants and searched the vehicle. Two uncased shotguns and slug rounds were located on the floor of the vehicle. The driver was ticketed for shining with weapon in possession and having an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle. CO Charles Towns arrived to assist with the search of the area along the road where the vehicle had rolled slowly to a stop. The COs discovered a loaded, scope-sighted 7mm mag rifle in the ditch with mud plugging the barrel. Upon discovery of the rifle, the COs went to the subject's residence and obtained confessions to the rifle being thrown from the vehicle. Additional tickets were issued.

DISTRICT 8

CO Brad Brewer was assisted by Hillsdale County deputies on a complaint about taking a deer after legal hunting hours had ended. CO Brewer located an untagged deer in a garage that was being butchered by two subjects without hunting licenses. The subjects claimed that a third subject actually killed the deer. CO Brewer contacted the third subject as he was returning from hunting. The investigation revealed that the untagged buck had been shot with a crossbow and that the shooter did not possess a crossbow permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Brewer and Sgt. Joe Kellam were assisted by the MSP and county deputies on a complaint where the landowner was following a vehicle whose occupants were shooting onto private property from the vehicle. The vehicle was stopped and an uncased rifle, spotlight, and numerous spent casings were located. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss was assisted by Indiana Conservation Police on a complaint of a deer that was shot with a firearm during the archery only season near the Indiana border. The Indiana resident stated he shot the deer in Indiana. When the subject realized his lifetime Indiana license could be confiscated, he confessed to shooting the deer illegally in Michigan without a license, during the closed season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss recovered a deer on November 1st that had been shot with a shotgun. A subject was contacted and confessed to the illegal activity. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols assisted Montmorency County CO Joe Molnar with the interview of a subject who confessed to shooting a deer illegally in Clinton County without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Prince investigated a recreational trespass complaint that resulted in the illegal killing of a seven point buck. The subject confessed and enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger worked an ongoing complaint of late night/early morning shining and shooting of deer. After a lengthy investigation, CO Bigger located four subjects shining in November and three illegally killed deer. Numerous other violations were encountered including taking game from a motor vehicle, using a firearm while under the influence of alcohol, shining while in possession of a firearm, recreational trespass, driving while license suspended, felon in possession of a firearm, etc. Two of the subjects were lodged in the county jail and warrants are pending on all charges.

DISTRICT 9

CO Linda Scheidler responded to a complaint of a subject baiting. While inspecting the sight, the CO found an area in front of a tree stand that had a driveway reflector in the middle of a mowed area. The mowed area had shelled corn sprinkled over it. A few days later, CO Scheidler contacted the subject, who told the CO he was being framed for the bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ron Pinson responded to a call of four waterfowl hunters whose boat capsized. Other hunters pulled the victims from the water and brought them to the shore. The hunters all had a mild case of hypothermia and were treated and released. The investigation showed that the 12 foot watercraft the hunters were in was overloaded.

CO Ben Lasher responded to a baiting complaint in progress. CO Lasher was able to catch the subject in the tree stand, which did not have his name on it. The hunter used screw in steps on state land and was hunting over bait. The subject also did not have a hunting license in his possession and the vessel he used to get to his blind was unregistered and he did not have a life jacket. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher received a complaint of a dog caught in an illegally set trap on private property. CO Lasher checked the remote area and found several other illegally set traps. CO Lasher collected information and developed a suspect. While checking the subject and a few friends who were waterfowl hunting, CO Lasher found one of the subjects to be in possession of a box of lead shot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Borkovich received a call from an informant of a gunshot heard in the area of an illegal bait pile the CO was working. CO Borkovich responded and watched the subject as he came out of the blind at dark with a rifle in hand. CO Borkovich watched the subject put the rifle in his truck. The subject did the same with a bow and then drove his truck to the bait pile with no lights on and attempted to load a deer into the truck. Unfortunately, the subject was unable to lift the eight point, so he tied his tow

strap to the truck and deer and proceeded to drive the truck with no lights back to the road. CO Borkovich contacted the subject who tried to say the deer was shot with an arrow and not the .30-06. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett responded to a complaint of a subject placing a "wheelbarrow" of corn and apples at a location. CO Ennett arrived at the location and the man was out putting up tree stands and clearing brush out for the upcoming firearm deer season. CO Ennett asked the reason for the bag of apples that was in the back of his truck, and he replied they were for deer bait. The subject had put up four tree stands and two had been baited. He denied knowing about the current ban on baiting and stated he was baiting according to the old standards. CO Ennett pointed out that the volume of apples, shelled corn, deer feed, and salt block far exceeded the two gallon volume of the old regulation. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Walzak assisted local police with two subjects who were target shooting behind a residence in violation of a township ordinance. As the officers approached, one of the subjects leaned a firearm inside the open passenger door of a pickup. As CO Walzak reached for the firearm to check it, a three year old boy in the driver's seat of the truck looked at him and said "hi". After saying "hi" to the young boy, who was trying to turn the keys in the ignition switch of the pickup, CO Walzak opened up the chamber of the pump shotgun and removed a slug round. Checking the back seat of the truck, a pump shotgun was found uncased. CO Walzak removed the keys from the ignition, removed the firearms from the immediate area of the young boy and took enforcement action.

After checking shore anglers, CO Lacelle Rabon was on routine patrol in the City of Detroit when he was flagged down by an elderly male who had contusions on his forehead. The individual stated that he had just been robbed and the three men just got into a vehicle that was pulling away from the curb. CO Rabon pursued the subjects' vehicle. The driver of the subject vehicle stopped and two passengers fled on foot. The driver continued on where he tried to blend in with the other traffic. CO Rabon stopped the vehicle and the driver was ordered out and placed under arrest. As he was being handcuffed, the driver blurted out "I am not going down on this by myself, those guys were crazy robbing that man". The subject was advised of his rights and turned over to Detroit Police. The victim's cell phone and \$20.00 was recovered from the subject. The victim was treated and released from Detroit Receiving Hospital. The subject was held by Detroit Police and charged.

CO Ben Shively responded to a RAP complaint of a subject hunting within the safety zone of a residence. CO Shively contacted the hunter in the stand and had him come down out of the tree. CO Shively advised the hunter that he was within the safety zone of the neighboring residence and asked the hunter where his bait was. The hunter said he had no bait because it was prohibited. CO Shively took out his range finder and stepped 5 yards away to get a distance from the stand to the residence and stepped on a pile of apples covered up by tall grass. The hunter then admitted to the bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel finished a jury trial stemming from a three count warrant for hunter harassment that occurred last firearm deer season. The original complaint was that the subject drove up and down his property line in a golf cart playing "ice cream man" music on a loudspeaker. The hunters on the neighboring property who were there legally complained and CO Kiel was able to get a warrant. The subject was found guilty on two of the three counts and was fined \$400.00 and is not allowed to walk or ride along his property line during the firearm deer season for the next two years.

On opening day of deer season, CO Mark Ennett contacted a hunter early in the morning who was unable to produce a valid hunting license. He stated that he simply forgot to buy a license. The hunter then stated the property he was hunting had a different owner than last year, and that he had not received permission to hunt from the new owner. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett stopped a car driving along railroad property and checked two hunters who claimed to have permission to hunt adjacent private property. They said the owner had permission from the railroad for a right-of-way exemption. During the check, CO Ennett observed one of the hunters was not showing him all the licenses that he pulled out of his wallet. When CO Ennett checked all of the licenses, he saw that the hunter had purchased a combination license two days after he had purchased a firearm deer license and an archery deer hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking waterfowl hunters at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, CO Dan Walzak and an agent with the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) contacted three subjects who were hunting waterfowl. Checking the individuals, two were missing their federal migratory bird stamps and all three had unplugged shotguns. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling for shiners, COs Mark Ennett and Dan Walzak stopped and took enforcement action on two subjects in a vehicle who were casting an artificial light to locate deer. Later that night the COs stopped another vehicle, again shining for deer. Upon contact with the individuals, both COs noted that the clothing on the passenger looked very familiar. That's because he was the driver of the first vehicle. The subject already had his driver's license out because "he knew what was coming". Enforcement action was taken again.

CO Dan Walzak encountered an individual driving down the road at 20 miles per hour in a 45 mph zone and having trouble driving straight. CO Walzak could see that the driver was earnestly looking out the passenger window as he was driving. The window was down even though there was a steady rain and gusty winds. Upon stopping the vehicle, CO Walzak found an uncased shotgun and two shells for the shotgun within easy reach of the driver. Enforcement action was taken.

On opening day of firearm deer season, CO Ben Shively checked a hunter who was coming out of the woods one and one-half hours after the end of hunting hours. As CO Shively contacted the subject, he leaned his muzzleloader rifle against a tree and tried

to slide his hand down the barrel to the chamber. CO Shively told him to go ahead and safely remove the percussion cap. The subject was carrying a muzzleloader rifle with the percussion cap still in place, a loaded Thompson contender in a holster and since he is a CPL holder he also had a loaded handgun in his waistband and a .22 cal. Derringer in his backpack. The subject stated that he got lost as he was walking out of the woods and forgot to unload his hunting weapons. Enforcement action was taken.

After checking the area of a safety zone/baiting complaint, CO Ben Shively observed an ORV operating on the road. He stopped the ORV and found it was being operated by a man and his wife. The subjects were riding double, not wearing helmets or eye protection, there was no ORV sticker on the vehicle and the wife was holding an uncased bow. The subjects told CO Shively she was dropping her husband off to go hunting in a field that was one-half mile from their house. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel received a RAP complaint, prior to the firearm deer season, stating that the day before, at about 5:30 p.m., a shot was heard and a deer was taken. The complainant reported that the deer was at a residence north of Lapeer. CO Kiel responded and found no one was home at the address. He searched the area for evidence and found a bait pile behind the house. The homeowner arrived and CO Kiel asked to look in the pole barn. The homeowner said that there was a four point buck hanging in there that his buddy had shot with a bow the evening before. He showed CO Kiel the deer that was not tagged. CO Kiel was able to locate a bullet hole in the neck of the deer. The homeowner admitted to shooting it himself the night before with a .243 rifle out of the bedroom window of his house. He said he did it that way because the house muffled the sound of the shot. He said that he had never done that before without a license. CO Kiel seized the firearm and the deer and enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel checked a subject who was hunting over a bait pile that had mostly been eaten. He was hunting on his own property and the bait was on the neighbor's property, which he did not have permission to hunt. The subject did not have a hunting license in his possession. CO Kiel questioned him about what he had shot so far this year and he said that he had shot a doe during the early antlerless season. Later that night, CO Kiel met him back at his house and he produced a combination license and one antlerless license. A check through the license system indicated that he had only purchased one antlerless license. CO Kiel asked him what he tagged his doe with and the subject admitted that his boss was hunting with him that day and he shot the deer, but his boss tagged it because his boss wanted the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Szyska responded to a complaint of persons rallying ducks on Lake St. Clair. He went to the access site and watched a subject in a vessel chasing or pushing up resting buffleheads toward a layout rig. The subject repeated this several times. CO Szyska waited for the subjects to come in. A check of the vessel revealed two ducks. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Linda Scheidler and Sgt. Tom Wanless observed a large backhoe dredging a pond which was connected to a wetland. The COs contacted the operator who stated he was unaware of a permit being issued by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The subject was requested to stop and follow up was conducted. No permit was issued; the case was turned over to DEQ.

CO Ben Lasher and Sgt. Tom Wanless observed two subjects walking through a field in camouflage with firearms. When the COs contacted the subjects, the subjects tried to say they were not hunting. Neither subject had a hunting license or were wearing hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher and Sgt. Tom Wanless responded to a request for assistance from a local police agency on three subjects hunting along the railroad tracks. Numerous violations were found, including railroad trespass, no hunter orange, hunting without a license, and a felon in possession of a firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

COs John Borkovich and Ken Kovach, along with PCO Jon Sklba, conducted a random inspection of a deer processor on the evening of November 14th. The COs found a gunshot deer with an archery tag, three untagged deer, and a few other tagging violations. Follow-up is being conducted.

CO John Borkovich responded to a trespass complaint. When he attempted to contact the subjects at their residence, he found a partial deer carcass that was skinned out. The irate female subject repeatedly called CO Borkovich incompetent and that the CO could not tell the difference between a deer and a sheep. To quiet the subject, CO Borkovich asked the subject for the "sheep" head and cape. The subject continued to be belligerent to him and told him the dog ate it. CO Borkovich followed some wheelbarrow tracks from the hanging deer to the back of a shed where he found the head and cape of a "button" buck. The subjects did not have a valid license for the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Borkovich responded to a trespass complaint. He contacted a subject who was in possession of an untagged deer that was taken over bait. The subject was also letting his juvenile son hunt unsupervised. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Borkovich contacted a hunter who thanked him for the break he gave the hunter's son over ten years prior. Due to CO Borkovich taking the time to educate the juvenile at the time instead of issuing a ticket, the juvenile was able to get into the military and is now flying helicopters in Iraq.

On opening day of the firearm deer season, CO Al Schwiderson and Sgt. Tom Wanless contacted a subject who had a loaded .44 magnum revolver on the front seat of his truck. The subject never declared he was a Concealed Pistol License (CPL) permit holder when first contacted. He stated he had a CPL permit but that it was stolen along with his wallet. When asked when his wallet was stolen, the subject replied "February".

A computer check of the subject indicated he did not have a permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Al Schwiderson responded to a recreational trespassing complaint. The two subjects, father and 14 year old son, admitted that the 14 year old shot and injured a deer which ran onto the complainant's property and they trespassed to find it. They stated that while on the property, the 14 year old spooked up another buck which he shot while in the safety zone of the complainant's residence. Because it was the 14 year old's first deer, the complainant allowed the juvenile to keep the deer and the father was issued a ticket for trespassing.

CO Ken Kovach and PCO Jon Sklba responded to a recreational trespassing complaint on the morning of the firearm opener. Upon arrival the subjects and complainant had worked out their differences. However, the property owner still wanted to prosecute. While checking the trespassers, the COs found that one of the subjects did not have a valid hunting license and the other had a loaded firearm on the front seat of a motor vehicle with the safety off. While talking to both parties, it was revealed that the same two subjects trespassed on the same property last year on opening day and illegally shot a 10 point buck. The subjects gave the COs a written confession of that issue. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach and PCO Jon Sklba observed two subjects on private property who were unloading two deer out of the back of the truck. When the subjects saw the COs they turned around and looked away. The COs contacted the subjects who were frantically attempting to validate the tags that were not on the deer. The younger subject told the COs that both he and his father shot the deer earlier in the morning and he was walking his father through the process of tagging a deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach and PCO Jon Sklba responded to an untagged deer complaint. CO Kovach recognized the address of the subjects as one from several previous complaints, including hunting over a lighted bait pile and taking deer out of season. The COs determined that one subject shot two small bucks without valid licenses over bait and had a highway killed deer without a permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received a complaint of a subject who harvested an overlimit of bucks. The subject shot a three point and tagged it with his restricted license then shot a five point. CO Kovach observed the restricted tag was not validated so he seized it. After interviewing the subject, CO Kovach was able to prove the subject shot the deer then later that day purchased the license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach and PCO Jon Sklba dealt with seven untagged deer over the weekend opener.